THE MARYLAND FARMER

—DEVOTED TO—

Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

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THE CORN SONG.

Heap high the farmer's wintry hoard!
Heap high the golden corn!
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn!

Let other lands, exulting, glean
The apple from the pine,
The orange from its glossy green,
The cluster from the vine.

We better love the hardy gift
Our rugged vales bestow,
To cheer us when the storm shall drift
Our harvest-fields with snow.

And now, with Autumn's moonlit eves,
Its harvest-time has come,
We pluck away the frosted leaves,
And bear the treasure home.—*Whittier.*

ADVANCED AGRICULTURE.

It is only necessary to understand thoroughly the practical application of the true methods of farm work, to make the business of farming always successful. This has no relation to what is properly called "book farming;" but it is the result of knowledge, intelligence and study properly applied to the circumstances which surround ones own land and own work. It would be only nonsense to take any book and follow out in detail the directions there given; for all the circumstances which give success may be different in the different cases. It is not possible to cultivate the soil in harmony with the ideas of advanced agriculture, except by adapting yourself to circumstances; and thus developing in good part the possibilities of the soil.

It is safe to say that no one thus far has become wise enough, either by long practice or by study, to bring out the latent capabilities of a single acre of land. Although under peculiar circumstances crops amounting to $800 or $1000, have been realized, yet the farmer who has procured such yields, when examining his field in detail finds many points where the full or perfect fruitage has missed, and where a little more judicious care would have added much more to the amount produced. This will always be the case

no matter how successful the work may become. To render these marks of imperfect fruitage the least in average is the work of advanced agriculture, or to obtain the minimum of failure in every attempt is the sign of intelligent effort in that direction.

As in every other pursuit the proper method of study is to commence in a small way, with a portion of ground put in proper condition of tilth, properly fertilized, seeded, cultivated, harvested and marketed. Then as this effort is successful, enlarge the area in the same direction, giving an equal care to the larger portion, with the additional demand which such enlarged area naturally makes upon the patience, labor and vigilance of the worker. When we first engaged in the keeping of poultry, the thing most earnestly enforced upon our attention was, to "commence small." This is just as important in advanced agriculture. Commence with a small area; learn from that all the "ins and outs" of the business; be a thorough worker in every department—from the preparation of the ground to the marketing of the crop.

One of the greatest studies is the best means of fertilizing the ground; and here the whole subject is open for discussion. Our own decided preference is, the manure of cattle and hogs in abundant measure, if it is possible to obtain it. This perfectly incorporated into the soil till its offensive character is neutralized and only its rich and stimulating power remains. But this cannot be had in quantity sufficient for the ends proposed; although the silo and ensilage will enable the small farmer to keep cattle and hogs to much better advantage than heretofore and thus to accumulate larger quantities of this much needed fertilizer. When this fails, however, use the horse and the poultry manure, and ashes, swamp muck and every description of green vegetation composted and decayed, marle if to be found on your farm or within a reasonable distance and at low prices, and whatever can be gathered from the waste portions of the land or the buildings. If still in need of fertilizers buy from others, less mindful of what the land needs, or less advanced in farming ideas; or, seek the dealers in the best commercial fertilizers, choosing the finest raw bone first, and then experimenting on a very small scale until you find to what the land will best respond.

The proper working of the land requires a very few of the best agricultural implements—mind, a very few; but those of the very best. The soil needs not merely to be turned and top harrowed, but should be thoroughly mixed and worked to a good depth, and the best means to do this should be procured. No advantage is to be gained by the expenditure of a large amount in a variety of costly implements; but a choice assortment, few in number, perfectly adapted to the work you have to do and to the amount and character of the land to be worked. Agricultural implements are the farmer's tools. The woodman needs an axe adapted to his work and would smile if offered the dull axe lying at the farmer's woodpile. The intelligent farmer smiles when he sees some of the tools with which the soil is cultivated.

In the same way the best seeds, the most productive plants, the best quality of fruit, the best marketable produce, claim the attention of the intelligent farmer. It is not enough that his present stock is good, he is always looking for an improvement. By experiment on a small scale, he is himself bringing about the very improvement he needs. Every new thing is not necessarily an improvement, and often a man shows his intelligence by rejecting new and untried varieties in each department of farm life. This, however, should not blind one to the fact that in

some new methods of work, intensive farming and high cultivation of small areas, large recompense is found and success is certain.

Taking away from this subject all discussion of technical points, all the chemical analyses of soils, plants and fertilizers, all the scientific terms which are apt to befog the plain practical farmer, we have given the principal points of Advanced Agriculture: The seizing upon those points and conditions which bring from the soil the largest returns in money for the farmer. We wish this borne in mind by our readers. It is the only result to which the true advanced agriculture can lead, and unless it does lead to this it is but a mockery to talk of advanced agriculture. We heartily espouse the idea, because we believe it is yet to be the only thing which will make of farming a real and permanent success.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

REMINISCENCES OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

To the late Charles B. Calvert of Riverdale, Prince Georges County, is undoubtedly due the founding and building of the College—the first Agricultural College in the United States. He was ably seconded by Dr. John O. Wharton and the Hon. J. Dixon Rowan of Washington county; Col. James T. Earle of Queen Anne county; Ramsey McHenry and Col. J. Carroll Walsh of Harford county; Col. Edward Lloyd and General Tilghman of Talbot county, also several of the Messrs. Goldsboroughs of Talbot and Dorchester counties; Dr. Samuel P. Smith of Alleghany county; Col. Anthony Kimmell of Frederick county; Mr. Brown of Carroll county; J. Howard McHenry and John Ridgeley of Hampton of Baltimore Co.; Col. John H. Sothoron of St. Mary's county and Mr. Cole of Charles county.

The first step was to obtain a charter from the Legislature of Maryland. Authority for which was found in the 39 article of the Bill of Rights. The charter was introduced into the Senate by Col. John Sothoron of St. Mary's county who quoted largely from the debates in the Convention of 1850, and as an appreciation of its value added the name of the mover of the article in the convention to the list of commissioners created for obtaining stock to the Company. The charter contained a clause that when individuals—friends of the College—shall subscribe $50,000, purchase a farm and erect the necessary buildings, the State would endow the institution with the sum of $6000 per year for Professors' salary, &c., to carry on the institution. So popular had become the idea that the commissioners were not long in reporting the $50,000 fully subscribed. Among the largest subscribers was Dr. Mercer a wealthy sugar planter of Louisiana, known all over the country as the ardent friend and frequent travelling companion of Henry Clay. Next, outside of the State, was that public spirited philanthrophist, W. W. Corcoron of Washington, D. C. Messrs. Charles B. Calvert, J. Howard McHenry of Baltimore county and Ramsey McHenry of Washington county were the largest agricultural subscribers. Then follows a long list of $500 subscribers with such names as J. Carroll Walsh of Harford, Col. Carroll of Howard, John Ridgley of Hampton, of Baltimore county, and Johns Hopkins, Hugh Gelston, Wm. F. Brown, Robert Sinclair, George Page and others of the City of Baltimore, and Col. Edward Lloyd and the Messrs. Goldsboroughs of the Eastern Shore. With such a list of friends, patrons and subscribers, the College ought to have been a success from the start, and perhaps to the too sanguine expectation of its friends at the start, is due the disappoint-

ment which followed the early years of its growth. A College, like individual character, cannot be extemporized in a moment, more particularly an Agricultural College where both the theory and practice of agriculture were provided to be taught as well as the languages, the higher mathematics, chemistry and the sciences.

Upon organizing the corporation, Hon. Charles B. Calvert was unanimously elected President of the Board of Trustees, and a Trustee for each county in the State, and Dr. J. O. Wharton Secretary and Treasurer. Upon the Executive Committee of the Board was devolved the duty of the purchase of a farm and the erection of the necessary building. Col. John H. Sothoron claims the credit of selecting the commanding site upon which the first, the west wing, of the College stands. This is only one fourth the size of the plan adopted for the College building, which according to plan adopted was to be a large and imposing central building with an east and west wing. The erection of the west wing consumed after paying for the farm all the funds in hand, besides leaving a heavy debt, which was raised by the State advancing the sum of $40,000 upon a mortgage which it still holds.

The opening of the College was quite an imposing event. A large number of the Trustees and friends of the College from Baltimore, Washington and the surrounding counties associated with Bishop Pinkney as Chaplain, and professor Henry of the Smithsonion Institute as orator of the day—with a great and encouraging number of matriculates. As yet no President of the faculty had been selected The difficulty was to find the right man for the place. Only the Professors of languages, mathematics, modern sciences, with a preparatory department.

Mr. Calvert, President of the Board of Trustees, agreeing to accept the office of President pro-tem of the faculty until a suitable President could be found. At a subsequent meeting of the Board a member suggested the name of Benjamin Hallowell of Rockland, Montgomery county, as possessing a rare combination of practical and scientific knowledge and acquirements with considerable experience as a teacher and manager of a large mathematical boarding school in Alexandria, Va., and with great fondness for agriculture; but could give no assurance that he would accept, as he had recently relinquished his large and successful boarding school and retired to his farm in Montgomery county. The suggestion was immediately seconded by Mr. W. W. Corcoran of Washington and also concurred in by Mr. Calvert, President, and after a brief discussion, unanimously concurred in, and Mr. A. B. Davis of Montgomery was appointed a committee to inform Mr. Hallowell of his election and to urge upon him his acceptance. Upon leaving the College for his drive across the country to his home, with instructions of calling at Rockland, Mr. Hallowell's residence near Sandy Spring, Mr. D. was followed out of the meeting by Mr. Corcoran, who in his unostentatious manner, privately said: Don't let the question of salary,—then placed at $2500, with house and garden—be any impediment to Mr. Hallowell's acceptance! To those who know Mr. Corcoran's liberality and public spirit, his subsequent gift of $250,000 to the Columbia College need be no surprise, and at the same time see how much the Agricultural College lost by not being able to organize and succeed in the object for which it was chartered and endowed. Mr. Hallowell after much hesitation accepted conditionally. His brief administration gave promise of success and satisfaction. Dr. Wharton, the sprightly and intelligent secretary wrote of him to the gentleman who first brought his name

to the attention of the Board of Trustees. "You have placed the College and the whole State under great obligations to you for having sent to us that great and good man, Benjamin Hallowell as President of the Institution." Mr. Hallowell's health—which had previously shown symptoms of the approach of a deep seated malady—gave way and he felt obliged, reluctantly to leave the College, not however without leaving evidence of his deep interest in its welfare and success. His resignation was accepted with regret, and at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees thereafter, he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Board for life. There had been influence at work preparing the mind of the farmers of the State for a higher education and study of subjects leading to improvement in agriculture. First I believe was a series of very able and instructive papers, published in the old *American Farmer*, between Col. Capron, then of Laurel, Md., but subsequently the Commissioner of Agriculture under appointment by the President of the United States, in Washington, and the late Wilson M. Carey of Baltimore City. Then followed the prize essays drawn forth by the offer of a liberal premium by Samuel Sands, the still veteran Senior Editor of the same named paper upon "The best mode of renovating worn out lands." The first prize was won by Edward Stabler of Sandy Springs, Montgomery county, who was not only distinguished as an able agricultural writer, but also as an engraver, and subsequently as the Originator and President for nearly 35 years of the Montgomery County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. The second by Col. Capron of Laurel, and the third by Hiram P. Stabler of Brookville, Md. Several other papers of merit were contributed, among them your late assistant Editor W. W. W. Bowie, Esq., of Prince George's county, long and well known to the Farmers of Maryland over the *nom de plume* of the "Patuxent Planter." But in the opinion of the committee composed of such men as Judge Chambers of Kent, Chas. B. Calvert of Prince George's, and others, the winners as named, viz: Edward Stabler, Col. Capron and Hiram P. Stabler were justly entitled to the prizes offered, and they were accordingly so awarded and the prizes were highly valued by the successful competitors.

A. B. Davis.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

LOW PRICE OF WHEAT—OVER-PRODUCTION.

What is the cause of over-production? One of the chief causes is the large area annually put in the ground by large landholders of the West, where in order to make a paying dividend they are compelled to use steam to reduce the cost of production to a minimum, and which carried out from year to year, has a tendency to reduce the price at the same time. Hence our Eastern farmers whose fields are too small or too rough to admit of the introduction of steam into their husbandry, must raise wheat and other grains at a loss. Another cause is the large area yearly put into wheat in the North-West, by people who are actually compelled to raise wheat, and nothing but wheat practically, by a system of servitude akin to surfdom. They must raise wheat in order to enrich syndicates, corporations and companies. They have no other option, but to work for and fill the coffers of these insatiate money-lenders. Some may ask how is this possible in our land of freedom? But nevertheless it is only too true. I know of a locality, for instance, in Dakota, where apparently a thrifty hard working lot of Germans have settled, and if the question is put to them, What do you mainly raise? The answer will invariably be: Little else but wheat.

But why so much wheat? To pay interest. In other words they raise wheat to pay interest, and pay interest to raise wheat, to sell to the corporations. Now all these people work the year round like so many slaves for the monopolies. The way they become so engulfed is about as follows: These syndicates, corporations or companies have agents at the large seaports here and in Europe. The thrifty people are picked up; (of course paupers are of no use to them, but people who have a few hundred dollars in hand) they sell them land, furnish seed and implements, taking a chattel mortgage and also a mortgage on the farm (the Emigrant having spent his last dollar on buildings and improvements) at from 7 to 24 per ct. interest —generally about 12 per ct. Then the poor fellow is fixed and must raise wheat at 40 cts. or less a bushel to pay the immense interest from year to year, or leave a beggar, for he knows he must leave everything behind if he goes. The poor emigrant is doomed to work the balance of his life for the interest, trying to catch up, but never succeeding. Now this is also one of the causes of low prices for grain, although not generally known, but it certainly is, for no matter how low the price or what the cost of transportation he must raise wheat. We have laws, to protect us from foreign paupers and can send them back, but we have no laws to keep heartless men from making paupers or serfs from their fellow men, who are too credulous and trust themselves to any glib tongued agent, that can put things to them in a rosy light. And what is worse they have no redress; and the Farmers of the United States (one and all) suffer indirectly from the above cause. G. M. L.

Baltimore County.

FARM ITEMS.

Asparagus roots may be put down in the fall, but the ground should be well prepared in advance by filling trenches with fresh manure and allowing the manure to heat and decompose in the trench after covering with earth. In the fall the manure and earth can be incorporated, and the trench will be in excellent condition for the roots.

It is never too late to plant trees while they may be lifted in autumn without danger of the roots freezing before they are again imbedded in suitable earth.

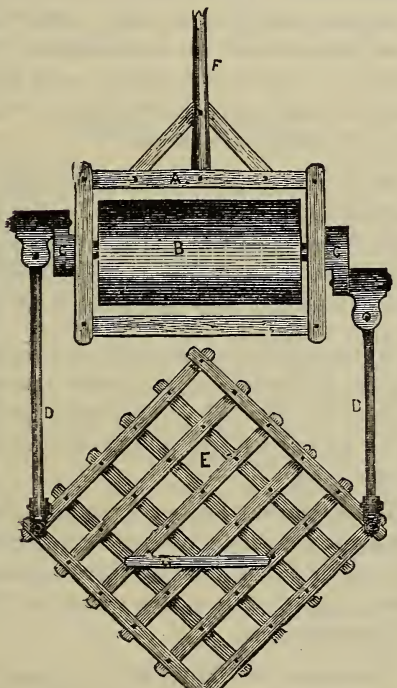
Now that the mower, rake and certain farm implements are out of use for the season, let them be properly cared for and housed. Neglect uses up machinery three times as fast as use.

Farmers should not forget or neglect their county fairs. Agriculture is at a low ebb when it cannot support a good county fair. For the mass of the people it is the real Fair, after all.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Combined Roller and Vibrating Harrow.—The thorough pulverization of soil is, and will be, an important item in the tillage of the earth. The most effective method, therefore, of attaining this result, is one of interest to every individual. Our engraving on this page is intended to represent an arrangement of a combined roller and vibrating harrow. The invention consists of the frame, A, roller, B, which may be constructed of

either iron or wood, the axle of which terminates at each end in a strong crank, C, C, of from six to nine inches in diameter. These cranks are keyed upon the axle in opposite positions. Connected to the wrist pins of each crank are the connecting rods, D, D, which extend backwards, and are attached to opposite corners of the harrow, E. The attachment of the connecting rods to the cranks is made with universal joints, so as to allow of a free and easy working of all the parts,



and to permit the roller and harrow separately to accommodate themselves to the inequalities of the ground. The manner in which the harrow is vibrated through the medium of the crank in rotation with the roller, it is not necessary further to explain. If the machine is used as shown in the drawing, the last operation performed will be that of harrowing, but if it is desired to leave the ground in a rolled condition, all that is necessary to do is to turn over the tongue, F, of the roller, until it rests upon the cross pieces, G, and attach the team by a chain, to what will then be the front corner of the harrow. Or should it be desired to use the roller or harrow separately, they may be readily disconnected by driving out two of the bolts in the universal joints. This invention is public property for the benefit of the world at large.

A FARM wagon with broad tires will save many a strain of horses and harness on the fields where narrow tires sink to the depth of the felloes or lower, and broad tires roll on the surface.

AS an indication of the manner in which agricultural operations are carried on in Aroostook county, Me., Sheriff Putman says that in riding from Caribou to Presque Isle he saw some half a dozen reapers and binders at work in the grain fields. One of them was a big one drawn by three horses abreast.

GOOD pastures in autumn are always more serviceable for cows in milk when supplemented by grain, and the two together tend to lessen the expense of winter keeping beside giving larger immediate returns.

THE potato crop is a failure this year all over the world. In Prussia it is 75,000,000 bushels less than last year, and in England, Scotland and Ireland 52,260-000 bushels less.

THE Agricultural Fairs that deserve success are those that exclude all forms of gambling and intoxicating drinks. Others that encourage vices have no just claims on the public for support.

RED clover and orchard grass are reported by Prof. Shelton as having come through the drouth on Kansas prairies finely, the latter especially showing a vivid

green and a wealth of rowen. Kentucky blue grass seems to have suffered more seriously than any other tame grass, and especially where it was manured in the spring.

At a meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society the following conclusions as to the best mode of applying manures were adopted as the sense of the meeting: 1. That manure consisting chiefly of the droppings of animals should be applied to the soil as soon as practicable. 2. Manure consisting largely of straw, cornstalks or other fibrous material should first be well rotted before applying. 3. For all hay or straw crops manure should be applied on or near the surface. 4. For hoed crops including that of corn, it should be plowed under a little deeper.

Ashes are highly recommended for potatoes, but in all our practice we have never discovered any evidence of their superiority over other kinds of fertilizers. As good success as we have ever had in growing potatoes was dropping the seed in the furrow covering thickly with partially rotted buckwheat straw, and then covered with earth; the potatoes were large, smooth and clean as though they had been washed.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Fertile soil is essential to successful farming, but not less important is moisture in all seasons of crop growth, and there are few situations where the supply is adequate without artificial provision; hence, the requirement that some kind of irrigation be planned to meet the need.

It would greatly benefit country roads if more broad tires were used, and if the width between wheels on different vehicles were not so uniform as at present. In some European countries vehicles with narrow tires pay heavy toll, while broad tires go free.

These humbug agents like to work among the men who "can't afford" to take a first-class agricultural journal—"can't spare" the money; but they can generally spare 10 times as much and more when some swindle comes along.

If the earth turns up lumpy after the plow, roll and harrow it reasonably fine at once, without waiting for rain. A light shower, which would not moisten hard lumps, will render small ones fit to molder fine as ashes.

It has been proved many times that straw spread thinly on meadows as a protection in winter, may return more value in the succeeding grass crop than it would bring if sold in the market.

It is a very good plan some farmers have of prying fast stones out when the ground is soft after a rain, and later, when the ground has again become firm, drawing away where they will not obstruct tillage.

With highways improved to the highest degree of usefulness, all farms through which they pass will have enough greater value to pay ten times over the cost of improvement.

Wise economy looks after outgoes from the farm, not grudgingly, not with regrets, but rather to see that in their exchange there is good return, that which will improve conditions.

Farmers who leave tools exposed to outdoor weather where they were last used, are the tillers of the soil who run behind hand and down at the heel.

The national government is to buy 224 acres of ground in the vicinity of Washington for an experimental farm for the agricultural department.

According to the latest statistics the number of persons in the United States who are engaged in agriculture is 7,607,473.

PETER HENDERSON says that after putting forty-nine loads of manure on an acre, it is the fifteenth load which makes the crop.

Now is the time to prune peach trees, so as to allow the wood to become ripened and hardened before cold weather.

The Illinois Legislature has appropriated $29,000 for the State Board of Agriculture.

GERMANY purchases of the United States each year agricultural machinery worth $1,000,000.

LIQUID MANURES.

Some of the largest strawberries we ever had the pleasure of seeing came from a bed where freshets had conveyed the drainings of a field several times, and a couple of weeks before fruitage. The berry was called the President Lincoln, but it had grown far beyond anything of that name in ordinary growth, because of the irrigation received and the invisible—for the water was comparatively clear of all sediment, as it reached the garden—the invisible fertilizing matter contained in the water. It is not necessary to see the water deeply colored to know that it is a liquid manure. Very often the bestowing of liquid manure is a great injury because it is given too strong and the plant cannot convert it to healthy life. It is indeed a poison when in concentrated form and will kill vegetation, so that any failure in its application may be laid to this fact. If applied in water, it should be so weakened that it cannot be seen in the water; but will diffuse itself generally through the soil before it is appropriated by the plant. It may appear that it is lost and only water is placed about the plant; but the result will show that the plant has found something more than the water, from the new and vigorous life which it will exhibit.

It may be thought that this involves a great amount of labor and when a large area is to be supplied with it such is the fact, and it becomes impracticable to apply it diluted with water. In this case, however, all the liquid manure should be diluted with soil, leaves, straw or whatever will rapidly decay. None of the liquid should be wasted, and during the entire winter it should be carefully composted and thus made ready for safe use in the spring. Dry earth is one of the best means of diluting the strong liquids and they can then be applied without danger, but with great benefit, to plant life.

ENRICHING LAND.

Other things may attract a large share of the attention of the farming world; but it is manifest that the enriching of the land is the principal item with every practical farmer. He well knows that unless he gives to his land that dressing which is necessary, the produce will not pay for the labor bestowed upon it. In many parts of our country the best and most economic method of enriching the land has become the great study of farmers, and it will not be many years before every part of our country—at the present rich prairie soil not excepted—will call for the same work. To-day the gatherings of farmers at their clubs are occupied with discussions on this subject, and all the various fertilizers are passed in review, and very serious doubts are expressed as to the advisibility of using this, or that, or the other. At present the great body of the farming community are not posted as to the scientific details of cause and effect, resulting in the best growth of their crops; but this intelligence is spreading rapidly by means of

the numerous club discussions and farmers' institutes; and it will not be long before they will become generally conversant with these things.

Often the farmer hesitates to give his land what it actually needs to make it truly productive, fearful that it will not return to him enough to repay what he must expend upon it. This is a false fear, and it is only the light spreading of fertilizers which makes no returns, because they are lost from their very insignificance. Heavy, liberal, unstinted gifts are invariably successful. The land repudiates stinginess, meanness and grudgingly bestowed morsels. It is generous where generosity is dealing with it. Large crops bringing in ample returns can only be procured from soil naturally rich or made so by intelligent application of the proper fertilizers.

The moment an experienced and intelligent farmer looks over a cultivated farm; he can tell how much has been bestowed upon it to make up the degree of fertility which is visible in orchard or field. It is no less visible when the land is starved, than when a horse or cow is starved. It should be just as disgraceful to starve the land as to starve the animal. In either case the owner must suffer. Poverty comes wherever the land is allowed to become poor, and riches come wherever the land is enriched.

FARMERS AND LONG LIFE.

The *Boston Globe* gives a very suggestive item when treating of the comparative influence of occupations on the length of life. It gives statistics of the different occupations in New England and the number in each reaching the advanced age of eighty years. In this list are 3500 names, and more than one-eighth of them are farmers, viz: 461. The occupation which comes next, numbers only 92. Among women of eighty years and upwards, the wives of Farmers number 709, which is a still greater contrast with other occupations.

Toil and hardship are very often the lot of the farmer and his wife. These are apt to breed discontent, especially in the young people of the farmer's honsehold. But evidently the above teaches a lesson which should not be lost upon the rising generation. If they desire a long life, a really healthful and happy life, then should they accept the farmer's life. The young growing weary of the strong and vigorous life of the home farm, start out to the neighboring city, enter upon a course of trade, manufacture, profession, or other active labor, looking forward to a career of prosperity without the drudging labor of agriculture. But they soon find that an anxiety of mind, a round of perplexing cares, is ever with them, and their life is very soon burned out and they are gone. The farm labor is but little when compared with the worry of any city occupation, profession or business. Head troubles and heart troubles, with the follies and dissipations of city life are a thousand times worse than the physical labor of the farm; and long life means freedom from these wearing soul harrassing, health devouring cares of city dwellers. The country is God's great sanitarium. The natural habitation of man is a garden and it is not at all wonderful, that he should live longer and happier there than in any other place.

Certain Strikes.

Judge Barrett, of New York has rendered a decision which is an important one, as it affects the Knights of Labor. It considers that strikes to prevent non-union men from being employed are

unlawful conspiracies, and any who would use threats or intimidation to force persons to join organizations, or to force employers to discharge persons not joining organizations, are liable to criminal proceedings, and should be presented by the grand jury. In previous decisions "boycotting" has been placed in the catalogue of crimes, and now this strike,—not having the rates of wages, or compensation, in view—to prevent the employment of non-members, is put in the same catalogue. It is preventing laborers from earning their living; it is preventing manufacturers from carrying on their lawful business; it is diminishing productive industry, and is an injury to the community. These are the grounds for the decision of Judge Barrett, against the strikers of labor organizations.

LIVE-STOCK.

Butter Color.

Articles of food have great effect on butter color. Lawn clippings are excellent; ensilage has some effect; carrots have a great effect; pumpkins are famous for yellowing butter; long red and yellow globe mangles are useful; yellow corn-meal is to be highly commended, and a system of extra good feeding always prolongs the period of high-colored butter. There are, however, certain articles which effect a loss of color at once. Green corn-fodder, dry corn-fodder steamed, any steamed fodder, and probably a good many other things.

THE hateful bot-fly, now about to torment sheep, lays its eggs upon the nose, and the young grub immediately crawls up the nostril and enters the nasal sinus, where it remains for months a source of extreme irritation. To rub tar on sheep's noses—tar mixed with an equal part of cosmoline or glycerine to keep it from drying—is one useful remedy. I have a long trough, V shaped, in which a little corn is scattered, and the sides are brushed over with fresh tar, softened with any non-drying oil or grease; crude petroleum is excellent for this. The sheep smear their noses while picking up the corn, and thus are easily protected from the fly; the tar is an excellent tonic and helps to rid the sheep of lung worms, which are another injurious pest.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

EVERY farmer in the land should by all means keep a few sheep. They cost but little in the first place. The cost of the sheep will never be missed. Nothing is nicer in the spring than a quarter of lamb. The majority of farmers are not convenient to market, and consequently cannot obtain fresh meat when most needed—that is, in hot weather. A lamb can be eaten by most families before it spoils, and if not, it is easy to make an arrangement with neighbors to take a quarter and return it when they kill. By all means keep a few sheep.

VARIETY of live-stock on a farm, quite as much as variety of cropping, is a source of wealth accumulation in the holding. With variety greater numbers can be kept, and the best use can be made of all food by giving the quality suitable to each description of animal.

THE late Professor Dick found that a horse not working could be kept in fair condition on twelve pounds of hay and five pounds of oats; but where a good amount

of work had to be done it required fourteen pounds of hay and fourteen pounds of grain. Horses used for very fast work are fed considerable more grain, as much as eighteen pounds, or even twenty pounds where they are continuously employed and have to be kept in prime condition.

KEEP the pig sty clean. Provide plenty of fresh straw and make it impossible for it to be the most disgusting place imaginable and a breeder of foul diseases.

IT may not be known that sheep left in the pasture all night with other cattle are seldom injured by dogs. They will be friendly with any animal that is kind to them, so that the cattle serve as a protection.

PROFESSOR Arnold has satisfied himself by experiments that meal fed alone to neat cattle will at once pass into the fourth stomach and not be thoroughly digested; but that if the hay or straw, whether cut or whole, be wet and the meal sprinkled on it, the meal will be chewed over with the cud and go through all the digestive processes, and give much better returns.

THERE are nearly 3,000,000 bushels of flaxseed annually grown in the State of Iowa, and the oilcake is very largely exported. If it pays our English feeders to have oilcake shipped from Iowa to England to feed to their stock, perhaps we do not fully appreciate its value as a food.

THERE is nothing that will fatten a pig as quickly as sweet potatoes. They are superior to corn for that purpose. Pick out those that are marketable, and boil the culls for the pigs. They may be given to steers also, and can be fed raw or cooked.

A GOOD way to keep the cow-yard clean and wholesome, and save the manure, is simply to plow the yard as often as once a month. This method is simple and effective.

COWS at pasture after the first severe frost want something more than the damaged grass. Grain will come in play as well as in midwinter.

FOR the present all Nova Scotia cattle are ordered to be quarantined because of infectious disease which now exists among cattle, horses and sheep in that country.

THOUSANDS of cattle are said to have died recently in the Texan Pan Handle, owing to the insufficient supply of water.

NEARLY twice the number of fine horses have been imported this year in comparison with any previous year.

AN Indiana farmer says that last year he made 146 pounds of pork from the skimmed milk of each of his dairy cows.

HE'S "SMART."

In our young days when we heard these words we always associated them with the good traits of character. Either the individual was more than usually intelligent, or he was quick, skillful and capable of accomplishing a large day's work. It was never associated in our minds with dishonesty or the practice of questionable things. It is quite different now. If a farmer sits on his load when his hay is weighed and remembers to stand away from the scale when the empty wagon is on it, he is called "smart." If the poultryman sells "limed eggs" for fresh, he is called "smart." If the merchant sells oleomargarine for butter, he is called "smart." If the coal merchant sells 2000 pounds for a ton, he is called "smart." If the manipulator sells "acid" for cider vinegar, he is called "smart." In fact this word has almost lost its true significance of a worthy character such as would win our approbation, and is fast gaining an unsavory odor. This was very forcibly illustrated the other day in our presence,

as a friend called another gentleman a "smart" man. He turned upon him saying, "I would rather be called a villain at once, than to be called "smart;" for I am no trickster." In his mind the word was connected with the performance of little mean things in the way of trade; taking mean advantage of confiding buyers, or the palming off of inferior goods for those of better quality. Too much of this questionable "smartness" is now practiced everywhere. But it is very like all other bad things; it comes home at last and trips up the "smart" one. He tops off a barrel of apples once too often, or puts an extra heavy rock in his hay for the last time, or sells his old blind horse to his great sorrow; and thus learns that this kind of "smartness" sometimes stings its possessor. Of course there are thousands of opportunities for cheating, but it is sad that such kind of dealings should be called "smart."

DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

SAVING AND SELECTION OF SEEDS.

The Deer Creek Farmers' Club met last Saturday, at the house of Mr. F. W. Baker, in Bel Air, and talked about the saving and selection of field and garden seeds. Mr. James Lee was called to the chair.

F. W. Baker said that the question selected for discussion had grown out of a remark at a previous meeting that a wheat crop had been lost this year from bad seed. All the care bestowed in the preparation of the ground is lost if the seed is imperfect. Farmers should, as much as possible, save their own seeds, particularly their field seeds. Wheat is commonly supposed to retain its germinating power for an indefinite period, and the story is told of wheat 3,000 years old found in the hand of an Egyptian mummy, but this story is now believed to be a myth, it having been ascertained that wheat will preserve its vitality only from three to seven years. In seed wheat only the largest and plumpest grains should be selected. The selection of seed corn is, perhaps, of more importance than in choosing other kinds of seed, on account of the value of the crop and the fact that corn may have lost its germinating power without its being apparent to the eye. If carefully selected in the fall and kept in a dry, warm place the risk of planting it in the spring would be very small. It is also important to get seeds of clover and timothy free from foreign seeds. It is an easy matter to test the germinating power of seeds. Take a box of earth, count a number of seeds, sow them and count the number that come up. The per centage of imperfect seed in the lot can thus be readily estimated and allowance made therefore in planting. The saving of garden seeds is a tedious task, and as a general rule, for the ordinary farmer's garden it is better to buy what is needed. If a farmer, however, has a particularly choice variety of vegetable it would be well to take the trouble to save seed from it.

R. Harris Archer said farmers used to think they could not too carefully screen their seed wheat and were particular to "nub" their corn at both ends. In his opinion, as like produces like, one grain on a perfect ear of corn, is just as likely as another to produce a perfect ear. So with tomatoes. Seed from tomatoes of medium size are as apt to produce large tomatoes as those from the largest ones. It is said that timothy seed can be tested by heating it in a shovel. If good it will pop.

Benj. Silver, Jr., spoke of the importance of sowing good seed. It will pay farmers to save many kinds of seed, but others can be bought with greater advan-

tage. He had abandoned the practice of nubbing corn.

He did not think there was any more risk in planting small grains of wheat than large ones. Some seeds require experience to save them properly and those farmers should buy. Grass seeds, for instance, can be bought more profitably than they can be saved by the farmer.

Mr. S. M. Lee said that corn left exposed to freezing and thawing is sometimes injured. It may look fair and yet not have vitality enough to sprout. Therefore it is important to take a sample of your seed corn and sprout it. He would save some garden seeds but as a rule it is more advisable to buy them. The selection of timothy seed is especially important, because it may look perfect when it has but little vitality. He had saved turnip seed which came up as readily after six or seven years as when first saved. Lima beans should be kept in a cool, dry place.

H. Spalding thought it advisable to sprout corn. He had known one failure of wheat to germinate. This was last year where two persons sowed some of the same wheat on different farms and both failed. Mr. Spalding saves most of his garden seed from the earliest and best of each kind.

B. H. Barnes said he thought the rule with seed is the same as with cattle and horses. A scrub will produce a scrub. If you plant inferior seed you may expect an inferior crop. He prefers to screen both his seed corn and seed wheat and plant only the largest and plumpest grains. He thought corn would not deteriorate if properly selected every year, and instanced a well-known variety—the Stephenson—which has been planted successfully for 25 years.

Thomas Lochary thought farmers cannot afford to sow any but the best and cleanest seed. He had sowed wheat from the year before alongside of wheat raised the same year and found that a great deal of the old wheat did not come up. He has garden seeds saved from the best vegetables.

R. John Rogers said that sometimes an apparently trifling cause will destroy the vitality of corn or wheat. Last year a neighbor sowed wheat and not one-third of it came up. The stacks had taken water and he was not careful to separate the damp from the dry wheat. No difference could be detected. He would not like to risk planting the nubs of corn. If followed up he should expect the result to be disastrous. To keep the standard we should save the best and sow the best.

Geo. J. Finney said he had found that grains from the small end of the ear produce the earliest corn and as good as any. If you want a good healthy stalk you should plant a good healthy grain. There is a risk in sowing timothy seed that has been kept over. Wheat kept over a year takes a longer time to come up. Experienced potato growers say they plant small potatoes one year and find they do as well as any, but it won't do to follow it up. He generally buys his garden seeds. He judges of timothy seed by his eyesight. The cleaner and brighter the hull the less likely it is to grow. He likes to see it with chaff on it. It is more easy to tell whether clover is good or not.

Otho S. Lee did not see why a man who plants small potatoes and raises large ones can't keep it up.

Johns H. Janney said it was important not only to have seed of good quality but of good varieties, and it is almost impossible to tell about the variety unless you raise it yourself. Like produces like and the grain from the tip to the middle of a good ear of corn will produce good ears. He is particular to fan his seed wheat, so

as to get large grains. It is exceedingly important, in planting sugar corn for canning, to get good seed and of a good variety, as so much of the success of the business depends upon this. We should get good seed from the North, plant it and save our own seed.

John Moores agreed with the other members as to the importance of selecting seeds of all kinds. He had seen wheat grow under some circumstances and the same wheat not grow under other conditions. In 1877 some of his early-sowed wheat came up poorly, the season being dry, while that sowed later came up well. It was all out of the same granary, and a little musty. In husking corn in the fall the finest, largest ears should be selected for seed, and dried promptly. Extreme cold weather may destroy the germs but if perfectly dry this is not likely to occur. All garden seeds should be saved, if possible, particularly cabbage seed, lettuce, beans, &c. When you raise them you know what you are getting. Farmers should also save timothy and clover seed.

Dr. R. D. Lee said that as kind produces kind, he should think it is best to plant seed that is properly matured and saved under the most favorable circumstances. If you propose to change your seed it is better to get seed from the same latitude and climate. Some seed improves as it becomes acclimated. Red Mediterranean wheat is an instance of this kind. It has become necessary to change our seed wheat, because the fly was destroying our wheat. Dr. Lee asked how plantain could be destroyed, and Mr. Finney said a neighbor had plowed it down and put his field in corn.

James Lee said it is his custom to take off both ends of the ears of corn intended for seed and plant only the middle. He screens or fans his seed wheat and gets the small grains out, planting only the most perfect grains. He generally buys garden seeds but saves some.

Adjourned to meet at the residence of Mr. Jas. W. Hanna, October 29th.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

CENTRAL NEW YORK.

Before you became Editor of an Agricultural paper, I used to write to you many a letter. When, forty years ago or more, you used to talk to me about country life and farming, the raising of thousands of chickens, and the great money that could be found in this pursuit, I used to laugh at your enthusiasm. But it has continued a great many years, and you do not seem any the less enthused with the old ideas of farm life, including the chickens. My life has run in quite a different channel, and many a joke have I had, when I have heard from time to time, of your farms and the numerous experiments into which your farming invariably ran, regardless of all profit, and only for the gratification of the knowledge to be thus obtained. You used to answer all my bantering with, "Well, I am paid, I love to see things grow." I hope you will be able some of these days to support an experimental farm with your Magazine and demonstrate to the world's satisfaction the very best ways of growing everything the world wants.

I took up my pen, however, to congratulate you on the appearance and general make-up of your Magazine, and to send you a dollar for a year's subscription. I know for old friendship sake you would send it to me for the asking; but I don't want to be a "D. H." If I don't send you another dollar when this year is out, stop it, till I do.

The harvest in this part of the Lord's footstool is about ended. We have had

some piping cold days and heavy frosts, and those who are husking corn in the fields complain of fingers aching with the cold. We expect some bright days yet, however, before the winter sets in, in earnest; but they will be very few.

Utica, N. Y. J.

We appreciate the kindly words of our old friend, and if we have spent more in experiments than our farming ventures realized, our readers will get the benefit in practical knowledge, and "J" himself may farm on his long time homestead, blessed by his steady work, but improved perhaps from an idea gained by us through experiments in our study of an advanced agriculture.—Ed.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

EASTERN CORRESPONDENCE.

Rockland, Maine, is the headquarters of limestone and lime. As a stranger approaches our city at night-fall, on one of our steamers, and looks across the water towards the land, he beholds on all sides of him the lurid fire and smoke from the scores of lime kilns which line the harbor. Probably the best and most extensive deposits of limestone, suitable for all purposes, are to be found here. Lying, as the city does, at the mouth of Penobscot Bay and just inside of Owls Head, which shuts out the great Ocean, it is situated to become a large and thriving place. It is constantly growing, with a steady and healthful growth; not being pushed forward by any great capitalists who expect to turn their thousands into millions in a very few months; but yet rapidly going forward. It is surrounded by an extensive farming country; but the country is not wholly tributary to this place. Much of it can have the choice between this city and a large number of other places which line the cost of Penobscot Bay, or border the Ocean between us and the Kennebec river—the land is strong and productive and the means of enriching it are easily obtained from the ocean, the bays and streams bringing the marine plants to us, or affording the means of obtaining loads of city sweepings from Portland.

Your readers undoubtedly have the popular idea of the winters of Maine which have been common to the newspapers of our country, that for month after month, the whole land is buried beneath a blanket of snow and ice. This is wholly wrong so far as this entire coast is concerned. Very often, the land is hardly covered with snow long enough to justify one in the purchase of a sleigh. Open winters, when scarcely any ice forms in the bay, are frequent, and for some miles inland the temperature of the winter months is so modified by ocean breezes that you might suppose yourself in the city of Baltimore instead of in Maine. Further inland, beyond the influence of the warm air from the ocean, the snow is deeper and the cold wave intense and continuous.

The farmers have excellent markets for all their produce, and while they give particular attention to raising beef cattle, their vegetables and fruits are allowed to be excellent, unsurpassed in quality by more favored climates. Their potatoes "take the cake," wherever they are offered in competition with other sections. I do not deny, however, that farms are cheap here, and a good many of them are for sale. I suppose this is so everywhere. We are a restless people, and seek change in hopes of bettering ourselves. For my part, I say, when we are doing well, making a comfortable living, why not make the most out of life as it is, be contented and try to be happy. Spear.

Rockland, Me.

THE

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AND

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WANTED, A canvasser in every town and county in Maryland. We wish to place the "Maryland Farmer" in every farmer's home in the State. We will make such liberal terms with canvassers as will secure this object. Call at this office, 27 East Pratt, near Light St., or write to us. Those who have made arrangements with us, have done well.

Having purchased the "Maryland Farmer, Walworth & Co. have resolved to make it THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE in every particular. With this aim it will favor every farmers' organization—from the Grange to the smallest club working for the farmer's good. We invite them all to visit our office. Let us become so well acquainted that the benefit will be a mutual one. We desire a correspondence with every organization.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER with a premium, only $1.00 per year.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Hoping that every one of our readers will have this year extraordinary causes for thanksgiving, we welcome the coming of the day. Some causes we all have, and his life must indeed be desolate who can find nothing in all his lot for which he may rightfully return thanks. Life in such a country as ours should never be a burden to any one, much less to the farmer. The very thought of the contrast between life here and in the countries of the old world should send a thrill of gratitude through our souls. Particularly should this be the case with the mothers and daughters of our land. Even here their lot is often very hard, and it is our duty to bring forward everything possible to lighten their burdens; but when we remember woman's position in the farm lands of Europe, where she is cared for even less than the beasts of burden, we see great causes of gratitude on her part with her life in the United States of America.

We do not care to go over in detail the reasons we have for thanksgiving this year, or in any year. We are only desirous of dealing with the subject now from a general standpoint. Some day in our lives is needed when we can gather around the family board, at least once in the year, the full complement of parents and children, and enjoy the companionship and the pleasant associations, which the business of life during the remainder of the year has perchance kept far away from us. This is the particular mission of thanksgiving: To bring kindred together, to cement the ties of blood; to unite the waning interests in each other; to renew the family feelings, which the outside world, its duties, its employments and its demands are constantly tending to destroy. Thanksgiving day is a great institution if it is used for this purpose. The Farmer should reserve for his own particular use on this day, one of the best of his flock and surround it with the various evidences of the products of his farm, when it is placed on his table before his guests. And his guests should be, first of all, his own particular family, and then the families of his married children, if he be fortunate enough to be so blessed. Gather them there on thanksgiving day, and then, even though no uttered word of thanks be heard before or after the meal, in every heart there will be a better thanksgiving than any words could express.

Our lives have few enough of such real reasons of enjoyment—of family social enjoyment—and we should eagerly sieze upon every such favorable occasion to add to our lives their best influences. Let thanksgiving day, therefore, be more generally observed in every one of our homes; not merely in a sanctimonious way; but as the outpouring of a charitable, generous and loving nature towards all our kindred first, then towards all our employed workmen, and finally towards all mankind.

BRONZE TURKEYS.

This beautiful plate of these royal birds was supplied by Helon E. Buck & Co., of Lancaster, Mass., who has made the Bronze a specialty. Our readers should remember that one male turkey is sufficient for a neighborhood, and it will pay well for a number of farmers to unite in the purchase of a Bronze to improve the stock. We give this plate as appropriate to our "Thanksgiving Day" article in this number. This cut gives the Frst Prize Tom, at Boston, 1886.

Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, President of Sorosis, is said to be one of the most successful bee-keepers in the country, gathering 10,000 lbs. of honey in a year.


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MILK SHRINKAGE.

The causes of the shrinkage of milk should be carefully borne in mind by all farmers, and the proper remedies applied. They may be classified somewhat as follows:

1. The change from green to dry food, without the addition of roots of any kind.

2. A scant supply of pure drinking water. Cows will go thirsty a long time before they will drink stagnant and dirty water. The milk shrinks.

3. Harsh treatment by their attendants, so that they become timid and fearful when driven up to be milked.

4. If worried in the pasture when they are feeding, or disposed to rest and chew the cud. They must ruminate in peace.

5. If exposed to cold draughts of wind when in the barn at night. This is a fruitful source of shrinkage, and can very easily be remedied.

6. Exposure to cold storms with no shelter to which they may resort. Every pasture should have some provision made to shelter the stock.

7. The farmer who is indifferent to the comfort of his cows, careless as to how they are handled, who never cuts and wets their hay or fodder, sprinkling it with meal or bran, who seldom supplies a sufficiency of clean bedding and is generally neglectful of cleanliness will find his milk shrinkage always growing.

These things once known, how easily can they be guarded against by anyone who would make the most out of his stock. It is a comparatively small thing to be careful, kind and cleanly, getting the confidence of your cows; but it tells eloquently in the milk-pail.

An Interesting Item.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions held during the month of October an interesting meeting and discussion at Springfield, Mass., which concerns all who are interested in this work, in all parts of the country. The doctrine of "Probation after death" was under discussion, and over 3000 were present to listen to it. Prof. Smyth, of Andover, said that out of thirteen chosen on the Prudential committee twelve had been selected in caucus who was opposed to the idea of Probation after death, and elected. Political partizanship was delegated to the background by such high handed packing of committees by this body. In reference to the Probation theory he said, "You are putting this Board into opposition to the whole ocean of humanity of which Christ is the head, and your rules and resolutions will be swept away by the universal power of Christ's love and divinity." The next meeting next year, will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. The discussion will probably be renewed there.

The College.

We give in this month's pages a valuable historical sketch of the Maryland Agricultural College, from the pen of our esteemed contributor, A. Bowie Davis, who was among the first movers in behalf of this institution. It will be worthy of preservation by our readers, for it gives a clear view of the past struggles and tells us also of the causes of partial failure in the past and present. It has always had a struggle with poverty and indebtedness, and has been crippled by the opposition of those who should have been its most earnest supporters. The State has been niggardly in its appropriations

for it, and for a long time now the State has done nothing towards defraying its expenses. But read the article of Mr. Davis.

New Coinings.

A smile chases away cares.

Fretfulness makes everyone unhappy.

Bring no shadow inside the family circle.

If a word would injure a neighbor, never utter it.

When ill reports reach you, don't stop them, let them pass by.

Everyone has something good, and death will reveal it, although life may not.

Oleomargarine in England.

A bill is before the English parliament to regulate the sale of imitation butter, and has passed the House of Commons. Heretofore the term "butterine" has been used to designate the spurious article, and has proven a source of great trouble. Dealers were often able to detach the "ine" on the package and sell the stuff as butter. The bill provides that the word margarine shall be the legal name. This change of name has been fought by dealers who have profited in the butterine trade. They have even been pressed so hard for real arguments as to object to the change of name because Margarine is not scientific.

The bill as it now stands prohibits the sale of any butter substitute, except under the name of "margarine;" all packages containing the article must be branded with the same word in large letters; and, when sold at retail, it must be made up in a wrapper bearing the statement, "Margarine, not Butter." For a third offense under the bill. a fine of one hundred pounds ($500) may be imposed. Some idea of the extent of the interests which will be directly affected by this measure may be gathered from the fact that last year the imports of butterine into the United Kingdom reached the total of nearly a hundred thousand *tons*, in addition to the large quantity which was manufactured in Scotland.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND URUGUAY.

In the November number of *Harper's Magazine* is an interesting article upon the Southern end of our Hemisphere, concerning the growth and agricultural condition of the Argentine Republic. While the extracts we make are so favorable in the aggregate of statistics, it must not be forgotten that the risks of conscription, and the as yet unstable condition of that region, and the question of health, must all be taken into the account before emigration:

During the last twenty-five years the population of the Argentine Republic has increased 154 per cent., while that of the United States has increased but 79 per cent., and the city of Buenos Ayres is growing faster than Minneapolis or Denver. Last year it received 124,000 immigrants from Europe, and the natural increase is very large. The newcomers are mostly Italians and Basques, with a sprinkling of Germans, Swiss, and Swedes. To tempt the immigrants into the agricultural districts the government has enacted land laws even more liberal than ours. Each head of a family is entitled to 250 acres free, and as much more as he desires to purchase, to a limit of 1500 acres, at about seventy-five cents an acre in our money. Or the settler may acquire 1500 acres free after five years planting 200 acres to grain and twenty-four acres to timber. Free transportation from Buenos Ayres to

the place of location is granted to all settlers and their families, exemption from taxation for ten years, and colonization societies are organized which issue bonds guaranteed by the government, the proceeds of which are loaned to the settlers in sums not greater than $1000, for five years, with interest at six per cent., upon the cultivation of a certain amount of land and the erection of a certain amount of improvements. The resuslts of these beneficent laws are conspicuous. In 1886 nearly nine hundred thousand acres of wild land were ploughed and planted. One firm in Buenos Ayres sold 1200 reapers manufactured in the United States, and other firms a lesser number. Elevators are being erected upon the banks of the rivers, from which wheat is loaded into vessels for Brazil and Europe, and the average crop was twenty-two bushels of wheat to the acre.

* * * * *

In 1885 there were fourty-one million sheep in the United States, seventy-two in Australia, and one hundred million in the Argentine Republic. We have two-thirds of a sheep to every inhabitant; in the Argentine Republic there are twenty-five sheep, and in Uruguay forty sheep to every man, woman and child. We have forty millions of horned cattle to a population of sixty millions; the Argentine Republic and Uruguay have thirty-eight millions of cattle to a population of four and a half millions. In Uruguay, with a population of five hundred thousand souls, there are eight millions of cattle, twenty millions of sheep, two million horses, or sixty head of stock for each man, woman and child. Fifteen million dollars has been invested in wire fences in Uruguay alone, and more than twice as much in the Argentine Republic. In either of the countries a cow can be bought for five dollars, a steer fattened for the market for ten or twenty dollars, a pair of oxen for twenty-five dollars, a sheep for fifty or sixty cents, an ordinary working-horse for eight or ten dollars, and a roadster for twenty-five, a mule for fifteen dollars, and a mare for whatever her hide will bring. Mares are never broken to saddle or harness, but are allowed to run wild in the pastures from the time they are foaled till they cease to be of value for breeding, when they are driver to the *salederos*, or slaughter-houses, and killed for their hides. A man who would use a mare under saddle or before a wagon would be considered of unsound mind.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

EXPERIMENTAL FACTS.

The fading and dropping leaves bring evidence that our growing season is over, and bring also the natural question, How have the crops turned out? And has ample food for man and beast been secured? The question has often occured to me whether the pulling of blades and topping of corn paid for the expense and trouble. A careful estimate of the crop from an acre and expense of the same rather induces me to think it does pay, where you have a good crop of corn, say 40 to 50 bushels per acre. To test the matter I have gotten Mr. N. Ayres, who is an old hand at the business, to carefully pull the blades and cut the tops of a measured acre and to weigh the same separately. As it may be of some interest to a few of your readers I give the result of good dry blades and tops from this acre: Blades 490 lbs. Tops 1115 lbs., well cured. Cost of labor, two dollars. This will give me 1600 lbs. of provender for both horses and cows. To secure this much it is necessary to say a poor crop of corn would not do it. By careful estimate

from several points of the acre I put down 50 bushels as a fair count.

This crop of corn is on a timothy sod that had been mowed and grazed eight years in succession, and for the past 20 years, not a bag of ammoniated fertilizer has been used. Last year the field was dressed with powdered shell dust in March, and the good effect was plainly seen. My usual experiments with different fertilizers this past spring has given me no special results except that I can repeat what I have said before, (and which has been so fully confirmed by the able report of the Ohio Station) that purchased nitrogen does not pay in a corn field; on the contrary it is followed by a loss. I cannot too earnestly recommend the importance of securing carbonaceous matter in the soil by saving all weeds, leaves, straw, &c., for the compost pile, being careful that these are not burnt up before they reach the land. It will surprise any one to watch the great destruction of carbonaceous matter of a manure pile where the heat reaches 80 to 100 degrees in winter. The heat is secured by the burning up of the carbon, which should be done in the soil, so that the carbonic acid along with the unconsumed carbon should mingle with the sand and clay and thereby form a soil or mould, i. e., a soil composed of sand, clay and carbonaceous matter. I use this term because it covers every compound derived from the fermentation of vegetable matters which includes all the soluble and insoluble organic acids, all of which act more or less on the insoluble inorganic matter rendering them soluble without the aid of the obnoxious brimstone acid.

Experiments this season with Orchilla, Flamingo and Fine S. C. Phosphate Dust clearly proves that in a carbonaceous soil there is an acid that renders these insoluble phosphates soluble, so that they can reach the growing crops. On Mr. Crosby's farm, at Tolchester, I was delighted the other day to see the effect of such matter on a poor knoll in one of his oat fields, where several loads of the debris from his hay press were hauled out and dropped. The growth of weeds, (Jimson) grass and clover was really marvelous, when compared with the surroundings of the plot. "No phosphate ever made would have produced such results," was his remark; and he has been one of our most extensive purchasers of it in the past. A. P. S.

Rock Hall, Md.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

FENCES.

In his pithy speech before the Inter-State Farmers' Convention, Gen. W. B. Miles, of Mississippi, pointed out the relative importance to farmers of the tariff and of fencing. I think he underrated the effect tariff legislation has upon the farmer's financial condition, nor can I agree with him that farmers should not discuss the tariff and other political questions at their meetings. But I do not think that he has over estimated the importance of fencing, though he founds his remarks on the fact that he has to keep two thousand dollars in fences in order to keep out of the corn and cotton about "half a dozen old razorbacked sows and a parcel of grunty shoats and pigs, worth altogether not more than fifty dollars." The amount of wealth, got by hard labor from the soil, put into fences in this country, is truly enormous. It certainly equals our national debt. This does not take into account the land occupied by fences, and rendered non-productive, except of weeds, to seed adjacent land.

The money invested in fences, and in the land of fence rows, is non-productive. In fact, instead of bringing in an income, it entails an outgo; for the fences must be

repaired and the fence rows dressed. While the only thing accomplished is to shut out a few half-starved animals, not worth near so much as the cost of the fences or the land occupied by the fences.

All this comes of the object of fencing being to shut out, and not to shut in animals. Each man does not fence to keep in his own animals, but to keep out every other man's animals. If each man was compelled to restrain his own animals, one-sixth the fencing now required would be amply sufficient. And this was the old English common law. It was changed as this country was settled, that the extensive free range might be available. This change was justifiable when but a fraction of the land was occupied; but except in a few localities, and even they rapidly narrowing, the conditions which justified the change in the old law have passed away. We should return to the law of our forefathers and require each man to restrain his own animals.

To this there is but one objection raised nowadays—that it would bear hard upon many poor people who find pasture for a cow or a sow on the highways. But highway pasture is poor, and the highway cow or sow is dogged until she can make very little return for the scanty, unpalatable food and foul water she gets. The charity that gives poor people the highway for a pasture is of a very doubtful sort, I am ready to give this argument kind consideration, for I have known myself what it is to be very poor; but I never pastured the highway, because I was convinced that it was cheaper to hire good pasture. A good cow kept on good pasture costing a reasonable figure, will make a larger *net income* than if she is pastured on the highway. I repeat that giving the highway to the poor to pasture is charity not worthy of the name; while it costs the substantial landholders five times what decent charity would cost. Reduce your expenditures for fencing to one-fifth of what they now are, as you can when you have only to fence your own stock in, and you can well afford to keep in your best pasture field the cow and the sow of your poor neighbor; and you would be doing him a real good.

We have become accustomed to what is now old in our law, that every man shall fence against all the world besides; and Jefferson pointed out in the Declaration of Independence that mankind is disposed to hold to those things to which it is accustomed, though they have become evil. But we must not hold too long, else we make no progress; and now, that the reasons for our present law of fencing no longer apply, we should agitate the matter until a man is legally required to restrain his own stock, not his neighbors. It is a significant fact that where the law has been changed back to the old common law, no effort has been made to annul the change.

JOHN M. STAHL.

Quincy, Ill.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

A RICH SOIL NECESSARY.

Success in Agriculture depends upon the character of the soil. It must contain the elements of fertility or else all efforts at tillage are useless. These elements must also exist in proper proportions or else in such excess that there will be an abundance for all the demands of the growing plant. Nitrogen, potash and prosphoric acid must be present in the soil in order that grains and vegetables shall come to perfection or as near it as may be at the time of maturity. Other elements are employed in vegetable growth, but there is no soil but that contains sufficient for all demands, for which

reason no special effort is made to provide them.

Results of cropping as before hinted depend upon the store of fertility. In a comparatively poor soil, crops may by a struggle arrive at maturity, but in an enfeebled and unsatisfactory condition.

Observation has shown that just in proportion to the fertile condition of the soil will the crop be satisfactory.

The expenditure of labor upon crops grown in a soil lacking in fertility, can produce no satisfactory results, no matter how dilligent or severe it may be; thoroughness will not wholly make up for want of fertility.

It matters little how fertile a soil may be; if by nature there need be no limit, but if it depends upon artificial sources, or in other words, if manure is to be applied to put a soil in condition, it might not be wise to apply excessively to the neglect of portions of the farm that need attention, but it is well to manure so as to secure satisfactory crops.

Wm. H. Yeomans.

Columbia, Conn.

GARDEN AND FRUIT.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

HILLS OR MATTED ROWS.

That the largest, finest strawberries are grown by the hill system, no one can successfully deny. The product from the hill system certainly excels in both quality and quantity. It could not be otherwise. The strawberry plant is no exception; it responds to the thorough cultivation which is a part of the hill system; and as, by this system its runners are cut off and all its energy thrown toward fruiting, it must produce well.

But the mass of berry growers are in this business for the money there is in it. In fact, all who make berry growing a business, are disposed to use those methods which will bring the highest profits. Some may desire to grow only the finest berries possible, profit not considered; but they are few. They will use the hill system without question, while the mass of berry growers want evidence as to the profits from the matted row system.

It is significant that nearly every extensive strawberry grower retains the matted row system. Among these growers are some of the most intelligent, progressive growers of the country—men excelled by none in experience and observation. Their opinions are eagerly sought for, and are given prominence in the most carefully edited agricultural papers. Their retention of the matted row system is strong evidence that it is best for extensive growing.

The hill system requires more labor than the extra quantity and quality of the product will pay for. Besides, large crops of good quality can be grown by the matted row system, when manure is liberally used. Undoubtedly, the relative cost of manure and of labor is the thing above all others to be considered. Where manure is exceptionally high and labor exceptionally low, then the hill system is the more profitable.

Among my neighbors are some extensive berry growers, and their strawberry crops find ready market near home and in Chicago and Minneapolis, where poor berries are slow sale. Not one of them

uses the hill system. Some of them have adopted the same system that I have used for some years,—a mean between the hill and the matted row. The plants are put in rows and heavily manured; and they are also cultivated somewhat, horse power being used. The result is better crops than from the matted row system, and the plants can be allowed to bear a year longer; while the additional expense for labor is small. B. G.

TOMATOES raised in light, rather poor soil, in sheltered or warm situation, are always sweet in favorable seasons, while those raised in rich soil or in partial shade are always sour. A rank growth of foliage shades the fruit densely and interferes with the development of the saccharine principle. Again, tomatoes raised in poorish light soil ripen earlier than those raised in rich soil.

PRESIDENT J. M. Smith, of Wisconsin, had the largest crop of strawberries on record—four hundred and forty-six bushels per acre. Last year he sold from three and one-half acres plants and berries to the amount of $2,515 and then plowed the plants under and raised and sold from the same land cabbages and celery to the value of seven hundred dollars.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., has a big pickle factory that is supplied with cucumbers from the lands adjoining the city. This season the supply has reached 30,000,000 cucumbers, those engaged in their production furnishing from 200,000 to 1,000,000 each. An acre will produce 100,000, which sell in Fredericksburg at eighty cents per 1,000

THE grape-growing regions of New-York state and Ohio are reaching enormous proportions. There are 14,000 acres of vineyards in the Hudson River Valley alone. The crop yields on the average a little over four tons to the acre. An average price of three cents a pound means $250 to the acre.

Whiie many thousands of dollars have been made in growing cranberries, large fortunes have been lost in similar ventures. Only the wealthier owners, who have expended vast sums of money in improving and equipping their property, can calculate with any degree of certainty on a paying crop of fruit every year.

A TOMATO vine can be made to clamber to a height of eight or ten feet, and when it is laden with ripe fruit, golden or dark red, few things are more attractive. The fruit of the tomato is really beautiful; but then it is so common, and we never give common things full credit.

In pruning trees of any kind it is better to have one strong branch or limb than two or three weak ones. It is better to keep heads low than high. It is better to keep limbs thinned out than to cut back and make too close heads. Let the sun's rays in, all through the tree.

The fruit-grower who sorts and barrels with care can afford to print or stamp his name on every barrel, and even to adopt a trade mark, and if his sorting be honestly made, and his barrelling skilfully done, his name will go far to sell the fruit at top prices.

THE entire cranberry crop last year was about 600,000 bushels. The leading states in its cultivation are Massachusetts New-Jersey, Wisconsin and Connecticut. Last year Wisconsin produced 70,000 bushels.

THERE is a half living, at least, in the garden for the family that will give it hearty attention—a relishing, appetizing, wholesome half living, if not more.

APIARY.

UNITING BEES.

I am requested to tell how I unite bees, in The American Rural Home, and as it is about time all such work should be done, a short article on this subject will not be out of place. The object sought in uniting bees is the placing of two or more weak colonies together so as to make one good, strong colony, as such a colony can stand the winter, while the weak ones, if left to themselves, would most likely perish. Then again, we may have a queenless colony which we wish to unite with one having a queen, or in June. wish to unite two medium colonies to form an extra strong one for honey gathering. But whatever the object sought is, the plan I have adopted works equally well in all cases, and is as follows:

Go to the several hives which are to be united, to form one colony, and blow quite a volume of smoke in at the entrance of the hive, at the same time pounding with the doubled up hand on top of the hive. This operation causes the bees to fill themselves with honey, upon which filling depends the successful uniting of bees. Each hive should be pounded upon for about one minute, only smoking enough to keep the bees from coming out after the first few voluminous puffs. Now take a wheelbarrow and wheel the hive to where you wish your united colony to stand, which wheeling helps by its jarring to augment the fear of the bees, thus getting them more effectually filled with honey. Previous to this an empty hive should have been placed where it is desirous of having the colony stand, so that as soon as the hives have been treated as above, no delay shall occur, during which time the bees might disgorge their load of honey.

Having all now in one spot, open the hives and take a frame of comb and bees from one hive and place in the empty one, then take a frame from the next hive placing it beside that of the first, and so keep on alternating the frames from the different hives till the empty hive is filled. In doing this select such combs as you desire, either for brood, honey, all worker comb, etc., thus getting the united colony on the best combs.

Having the hive filled with comb, close it, when we next take a frame from the first hive opened and shake the bees off of it down in front of the entrance, then shake the bees off from a frame from the next hive, and so on, alternating in the shaking the same as in filling the hive, thus mixing the bees from the several hives all up. This mixing of the bees takes the disposition to fight and kill one another all out of the bees when filled with honey as above, for when each bee touches another, it is a stranger so that the individuality of each colony is lost, and the combined two, three or four colonies unite within two or three hours to make an individual colony, which will protect itself from all intruders again, the same as the separate colonies did before.

As soon as the bees are all shaken off of the combs, gently blow a little smoke on the outside bees to make them enter the hive, should any be slow in doing so. As soon as all are in the hive leave a board about half as wide as the hive against it, standing the bottom out a piece from the hive on the ground, so it sets slanting. This board should be directly in front of

the entrance, and is thus placed so that the next time the bees fly they will bump against it, thus causing them to know that it is a new location they occupy, then they will mark the place the same as a new swarm does, after which they will adhere to it instead of going back to the old location they used to occupy before uniting. To help in this matter it is always best to remove the hives, bottom boards, etc., from the old stands, so that nothing home-like remains at the old sight to entice them back.

In uniting bees it is always best to do the work at evening, starting only time enough to finish the job before dark, as this gives the bees a chance to get all settled and colonized before morning. If done otherwise, in times of scarcity robber bees will be most likely to cause a failure by entering the hive while the bees are in a demoralized state, and unfit to repel an attack.

The extra combs left after such uniting should be carefully looked after and preserved, as they are of great value when rightly kept and used for new swarms the coming season. Those containing honey will be likely to be needed for feeding the united colony for winter. If not, such honey will be of great help in promoting brood rearing the coming spring. If there is a choice of queens in any of the colonies to be united, hunt out and kill or dispose of the poorer ones, so that the best may be preserved. If no choice and the extra queens are of no value, the bees will attend to the matter, killing all but one of them.

If after you think there is still a deficiency of bees and brood, brood can be obtained in most localities during September by feeding a little honey or syrup each evening for two or three weeks, especially in united colonies, as such a mixing of bees tends to make them feed the queen prepared food, so she shall keep up egg laying.—*Cor. Rural Home.*

HOUSEHOLD.

MOTHER'S GIRL.

Sleeves to the dimpled elbow,
Fun in the sweet blue eyes,
To and fro upon errands
The little maiden flies.
Now she is washing dishes,
Now she is feeding the chicks,
Now she is playing with pussy,
Or teaching Rover tricks.

Wrapped in a big white apron,
Pinned in a checkered shawl,
Hanging clothes in the garden,
Oh, were she only tall!
Hushing the fretful baby,
Coaxing his hair to curl;
Stepping around so briskly,
Because she is mother's girl.

Hunting for eggs in the haymow,
Petting old Brindle's calf,
Riding Don to the pasture,
With many a ringing laugh,
Coming whene'er you call her,
Running wherever sent,
Mother's girl is a blessing,
And mother is well content.

—*Central Christian Advocate.*

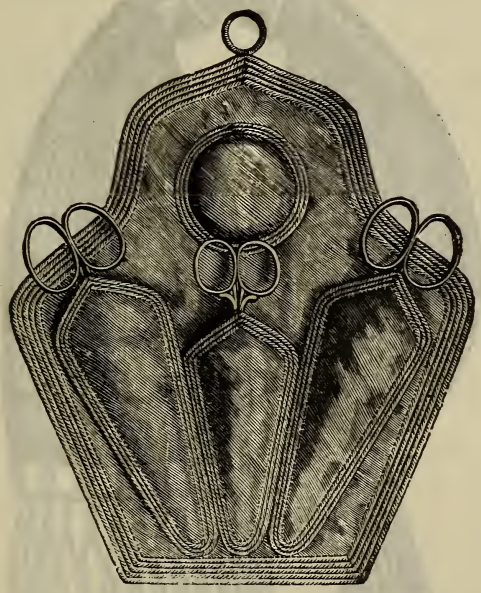
To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

TROUBLES.

Troubles—What are they? Troubles come to us all at times. They come when least we are expecting them. They come by day, and they come by night. They

are the dark clouds of our otherwise bright and happy lives. Some of us are very apt to think that we have more than our share of the troubles of life. But are they really as bad as they look to us? Does not the imagination have a great deal to do in this matter? When we are alone in our quiet rooms, the mind often finds time to bring out some fancied trouble into bright and vivid colorings, thus bringing hours and days of long and sad discontent, full of evil thoughts and longings against this black cloud that is hanging over us.

Troubles are of the same nature as are plants—if you do not take care and weed them out while they are small and tender, it will not be long before you will find the happiness of your life overshadowed by their rank growth. Therefore we should be on the watch and root them out while they are still small. Dark days will come to us all. Life is made up of sunshine and clouds. But cannot we, if we try by always looking forward to a bright and happy future, bring more sunshine than clouds into our lives? We should not be ready to go out to meet trouble half-way. We should not cross the dividing stream between happiness and trouble, for the bridge may break and we find ourself on the wrong side. Let us bear bravely whatever troubles we may have and in the end all will be right. AZILE.



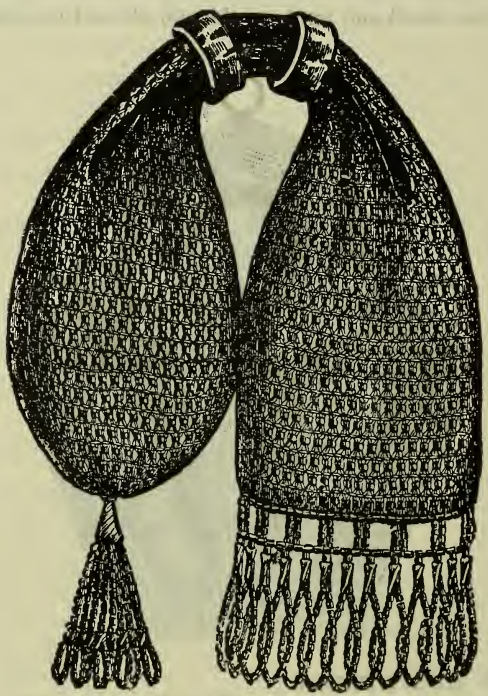
SCISSOR CASE AND NEEDLE CUSHION.

This is a neat little case intended to hang upon the wall near the sewing machine or work table. Our pattern is made up of brown silk, and finished with three rows of cords. The cords are also stitched on as finish for the pockets, which are sewn on the case itself. Cut from the illustration a pattern in paste board and a similar one in silk, allowing a margin to turn in. To make it more substantial line the silk with thin muslin. The back can be covered with cambric to match the color of the silk. The needle cushion measures three inches across, lined with

muslin, and drawn in at the edge with a small cord, to give it the proper curve; fill with emery, fine sand, or wool, if preferred.

SWEET PERFUMES.

Nothing is better as a habit, than the gathering of flowers and leaves to place in the bureau drawers among the clothes to give them a delicate perfume. The enjoyments of summer may thus be prolonged through the winter even to the coming of the flowers in the spring. A good plan is to gather the rose leaves and fill envelopes with them, and thus place them among the clothes. Heliotrope is also a pleasant perfume and quite lasting. The leaves of the Rose Geranium give a perfume that is particularly agreeable for this purpose. Place these envelopes in the trunks or wherever the clothes are kept and they are so penetrated by the subtile odors that you will carry them with you during the whole winter; not as a pronounced scent like musk, patchonli, or any of those essential oils; but as a delicate and invisible sweetness barely perceptible and yet enough to give all that is desirable.



CROCHET PURSE.

This handsome design is to be made with embroidering or knitting silk, our illustration being clearly sufficient to render full detailed instructions unnecessary. Begin by making a chain of fifty-two stitches, one treble into a stitch, then one chain into the next stitch; continue thus to commencement of opening, then omit one chain, and, after completing opening, continue as before.

A Good Offer.

One of the largest importers of English silver-steel needles has enabled us to make the following offer to our subscribers.

To anyone who will send us a new subscriber and $1.00, we will give 3 papers of these needles, one of which will be a paper of darning needles.

These are warranted to be the very best silver-steel, drilled-eyed English needles. They are sold at large prices, whenever they can be had; but only first-class houses keep them.

Here is a chance for our subscribers to secure an article which will be of real value in the household.

THE KITCHEN.

RECIPES.

BY AZILE.

Marsh Mallows.

Half pound of Gum Arabic dissolved in a pint of water, and strain it.

Put in half a pound of fine sugar and place over the fire, stirring constantly until about as thick as honey.

Add slowly the whites of four eggs thoroughly beaten.

As you continue to stir it, it will become thin and will not stick to the finger.

Now it is done. Pour it into a pan. Dust with starch, and as it cools cut into squares.

It may be flavored as fancy dictates.

Everything put up in the way of Jellies, Jams, Canned goods or preserves should be plainly labelled.

Milk just begining to sour may be restored fit for use by stirring into it a little baking soda.

Kerosene applied with a woolen rag to tin will make it as bright as new.

The cellar should be as light as you can make it. Dark cellars get damp and dirty. Light ones are apt to be clean, dry and sweet.

Matchless Pudding.

Fill a nappy with moderately sour apples pared and cored.

Fill the hole where the core was with sugar and spice—cinnamon is good.

Soak a cup of tapioca to a jelly, pour over the apples and bake until the apples are done.

To be eaten with or without sauce.

Crackers, which have lost their crispness will have it renewed by being heated in the oven a few minutes.

Crab meat and tomatoes baked to a delicate brown is a new and favorite dish in the City of Brotherly Love.

Stale bread for puddings or stuffing should be soaked in cold milk or water, never in hot.

Oyster Fritters.

Use the liquor with an equal quantity of milk to make the batter.

Baking powder, flour, eggs, salt and pepper enter into the batter.

Then chop the oysters and mix thoroughly.

Drop a spoonful at a time into hot butter and beef drippings.

Cook quickly and serve hot.

Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

THE November Number of *Harper's Magazine* is a brilliant conclusion to the seventy-fifth volume. Both of the serials come to a close, as do, also, Mrs. Davis's graphic sketches of Southern life and scenery. By thus ending the continued series of novels and articles, the Magazine prepares for a magnificent Holiday Number for December, in which every article and story will be complete.

A B C of Bee Culture.

This is one of those Standard Books which everyone who keeps bees desires to possess. It accordingly has a large sale. A new Edition has just been issued—the 33d thousand. It is a large book of 338 pages and sells for $1.25. We shall be happy to fill all orders at the publisher's price, free by mail.

GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS, by Flint. This is one of the most valuable treatises that we have on these subjects. For some time back it has been out of print, until the demand became so great that its republication was a necessity. It is a fully bound volume of about 400 pages and sells for $2.00. Lee & Shepard, Boston, are the publishers. Cushing's & Bailey, Baltimore. We will fill orders for it—free by mail.

THE REGISTER of the Fremont Merino Sheep Breeder's Association comes to us in rich binding, fine print and beautiful illustrations. It is an honor to the association to have issued such a Register, and will accomplish much good. The Secretary is Albert Chapman, of Middlebury, Vt., who will accept our congratulations and thanks.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—Report on the Condition of Crops for October—Also, from the Forestry Division, Bulletin, No. 1.

MASSACHUSETTS Horticultural Society with special list of prices for Spring Flowering Bulbs and Forced Vegetables, January, February and March 1888. Address E. W. Wood, Boston, Mass.

The Metropolitan maintains its standard of superiority and the Butterick Patterns are all that our readers need for home dressmaking and the keeping up with the styles of dress. The Metropolitan is $1.00 a year. Butterick Pub. Co. New York.

GEORGIA Department of Agriculture Crop report for October, with some remarks about Peanuts. Address, Atlanta, Ga.

WHOLESALE Catalogue 87–88 of Fruit, Evergreen and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c., &c., of John Saul, Washington, D. C

BULLETIN 92 of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, September, devoted to Fertilizers.

LOVETTS Illustrated Catalogue of Trees and Plants—Five Fruit Farms. J. T. Lovett, Little Silver, N. J.

DISSERTATION on the Silo and Ensilage in connexion with Ross & Co's. Catalogue, Springfield, Ohio.

REPORT of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, for September.

Whenever threatened with malaria, it is advisable to take the precaution to boil the drinking water. This process destroys all disease germs.

The Japanese are abandoning their picturesque costumes and adopting the meaningless attire of Europeans, together with modern improvements in steam, electricity and agriculture.
